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such organizations as they include should take the initiative in making arrangements for such meetings.

In 1899, with less than a month's notice, there were held in the United States, on May 15, in twenty-one different states, 163 meetings, at which there were reported to be present 73,921 women. With that precedent, the same length of time should enable the women of our country to double the number of meetings to be held on May 18, and to proportionately increase their attendance.

The taste of war which has been so bitter upon our lips should, and surely does, increase the desire of women everywhere to strengthen public sentiment for peace and to increase public faith in the possibility of ultimate arrival at a condition of universal peace, where war will no more be tolerated by enlightened nations than personal combat is now tolerated by enlightened individuals.

Let all women to whose notice this Call comes feel the appeal to be an individual one to aid in a local demonstration. Where local councils do not exist, women's clubs, temperance unions, educational associations and college leagues, are all appropriate agencies through which arrangements may be made for local demonstrations.

MAY WRIGHT SEWALL,
Representing the United States of America on the
International Peace Committee of Women.

New Books.

THE WEDGE OF WAR. A Story of the Siege of Ladysmith. By Frances S. Hallows. London: Eliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row. Cloth. 170 pages.

This short story of one hundred and seventy pages is a part of the literature which has been brought into existence by the South African war. It is written not from the point of view of the Boer side or of the English, but from that of the iniquity and irrationality of war. Its purpose is to show how war breaks up the natural and normal relations of life, makes enemies out of those who otherwise would be true and trustful friends, leads peoples into the most unjust and absurd notions of one another, and leaves griefs and desolations which peace and time can never remedy.

The story is a simple and most pathetic one. A Boer commandant in the Transvaal, an honest God-fearing man, in high esteem among his people, has a daughter of remarkable womanly qualities, who is engaged to a fine, manly son of an English family who have settled in the South African Republic some twenty-five years before the war breaks out. Netherby and Christine are in love with each other in the true and high meaning of love.

When the war breaks out it drives its cruel wedge between them. Netherby, ignorant of the real nature of war, of which he afterwards becomes painfully aware, feels his English instincts aroused, volunteers in the Natal forces, and the separation with Christine is most painful to them both. Her father is called into the service of the Transvaal, leads his commandos in the earlier conflicts, and finally is chosen to make the assault on Ladysmith, in which he is killed. Netherby is with the English troops shut up in Ladysmith, assists in repelling the assault on the town, is wounded severely in the head and eyes, and found lying across the dead body of the Boer commandant. Christine becomes an army nurse, sees and feels all the bloody and horrible tragedies of the

battlefields, nurses Netherby through his weeks of danger, and then is separated from him, blind from his wounds; and the story does not tell us whether they ever met again.

The work is a faithful, though not a harrowingly detailed picture of the cruelties and inhumanities of war, and especially of the way in which it separates, breaks up and blasts the hopes of what otherwise might be happy, prosperous and useful families. The "Wedge of War" is written in chaste and excellent English, is not overdone and extravagant, and is a book to put into the hands of young people, who are innocent of the real iniquitous and frightful character of war, while they are attracted by its preliminary glamour and its subsequent triumphal processions and glorifications.

EMERIC CRUCÉ. By Thomas Willing Balch. Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott. Cloth. 69 pages.

Mr. Balch, member of the Philadelphia Bar and author of a recent and admirable condensed account of the Alabama arbitration, has done an excellent service in giving us this monograph on the life and work of one of the pioneers of international arbitration. Eméric Crucé, who has been known by the name of Emery de la Croix, has been little noticed in recent years. In fact, Henry IV., Hugo Grotius, William Penn, the Abbé de Saint Pierre and other pioneer peace advocates of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, have received so much notice in the history of the movement that Crucé has been eclipsed and never had the attention which he deserves. Even his true name was lost until Judge Nys of Brussels, author of many valuable books on international law and kindred subjects, restored it only five years since.

In spite of this neglect, however, Crucé, born at Paris in about 1590, was the first, probably, to suggest in any definite way the substitution of international arbitration for war as the last resort for nations in the adjustment of their controversies. His remarkable book, "*Le Nouveau Cynée*," the only known copy of which is in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, was published in 1623, before Grotius gave to the world his famous "*De Jure Belli ac Pacis*." In this work he declared, in a broad Christian spirit, that it was to the advantage of humanity that the different races and nations should not injure and destroy one another by war; that the merchant is far more useful to human society than the soldier; that in order that nations may have the greatest benefits and advantages from commerce, they must have peace. International quarrels and wars he considered most absurd. He believed that, in spite of the obstacles in the way, international peace was possible, and he proposed the organization at Venice, as a practically neutral state, of an International Court, before which the powers which disagreed should appear by their ambassadors, present their cause, and have it rationally decided. Mr. Balch, in his monograph, which every student of the subject ought to have, has developed with considerable fulness Crucé's views on the various aspects of the subject, having made copious extracts from the copy of "*Le Nouveau Cynée*" at Paris. Arbitration, in both idea and practice, has a most instructive history, and we are very grateful to Mr. Balch for having given us this lucid and interesting account of one of its earliest advocates.